

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for converting a list of data items into an abbreviated list  
2 for transmission through a wireless network, comprising:  
3 alphabetizing the list of data items based on at least a first letter in  
4 each data item;  
5 separating the data list into a plurality of sets; and  
6 generating a first abbreviated list having a maximum number of  
7 entries, each entry representing at least one set.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 generating at least a second abbreviated list based on the members  
3 of at least one of the entries of the first abbreviated list wherein each entry  
4 in the second abbreviated list represents at least one set represented by  
5 the at least one entry of the first abbreviated list.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein each set represents the data items  
2 beginning with at least a same first letter.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of alphabetizing comprises  
2 alphabetizing the list based on at least said first letter and a second letter.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further including the step of:

2 mapping each entry of said abbreviated list to a control input in a  
3 display device.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of mapping comprises  
2 mapping each entry of said list to a keypad on a telephone.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said method includes the steps of:  
2 determining whether the list has a size greater than a predetermined  
3 maximum size; and  
4 if said data list is greater than said predetermined maximum size,  
5 alphabetizing based on at least a next sequential letter in each said data  
6 item.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein said steps are repeated.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said maximum number of entries is  
2 defined by:

3 determining a predetermined maximum number of entries;  
4 dividing the number of entries in the first abbreviated list by said  
5 predetermined maximum; and  
6 generating the list such that each entry in the first abbreviated list  
7 has a number of entries equal to the number of entries in the list divided by  
8 said maximum with a remainder of no more than one.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said first abbreviated list has a  
2 number of entries greater than the number of lines in a display of a device,  
3 and the abbreviated list is divided into at least two pages for display on the  
4 device.

1 11. A method for presenting a list of alpha-character data, comprising:  
2 alphabetizing the list of alpha-character data into at least one set of  
3 items containing items having at least the same first character;  
4 determining whether said alphabetized list exceeds a maximum list  
5 length, and if so, grouping multiple sets together based on said maximum  
6 list length; and  
7 mapping ones of said sets to an input controller.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:  
2 displaying at least one set responsive to a selection of an input  
3 controller for said set.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of mapping comprises  
2 mapping multiple ones of said sets to one input controller.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said method further comprises  
2 displaying a list of items beginning with each of said same first characters

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein said displaying list of items  
2 comprises said first of said same first letters if the items in the set  
3 corresponding to each said characters exceeds said maximum list length.

1 17. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of alphabetizing  
2 comprises alphabetizing the list based on at least said first letter and a  
3 second letter.

1      19.    The method of claim 11 wherein said method includes the steps of:  
2            determining whether the list has a size greater than the  
3      predetermined maximum size; and  
4            if said list is greater than said predetermined maximum size,

5 alphabetizing based on at least a next sequential letter in each said data  
6 item.

1 20. The method of claim 11 wherein said list of alpha-character data has  
2 a number of entries greater than the number of lines in a display of a  
3 device, and the alpha-character data list is divided into at least two pages  
4 for display on the device.

1 21. A method for converting a list of data, each entry in said list having  
2 at least one alpha-numeric character, comprising:

3 sorting said list of data based on a first of said alpha-numeric  
4 characters in each said entry in said list of data;

5 grouping entries into a plurality of sets, each set comprising entries  
6 in said list of data having at least a common first character;

7 generating an abbreviated list of said common first characters; and

8 linking each entry in said abbreviated list to the corresponding set  
9 of entries having said at least said common first character.

1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

2 generating at least a second abbreviated list based on the members  
3 of the set wherein each entry in the second abbreviated list is a first letter  
4 in said abbreviated list and represents a second set of all entries in the  
5 data list beginning with one letter.

1      28.    The method of claim 21 wherein said method includes the steps of:  
2           determining whether the list has a size greater than a predetermined

- 3 maximum size; and
- 4 if said list is greater than said predetermined maximum size,
- 5 alphabetizing based on at least a next sequential letter in each said data
- 6 item.

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